



**CRAIG CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**
MOFFAT COUNTY VISITOR CENTER

360 E Victory Way, Craig, CO 81625 • (970) 824-5689 or 1-800-864-4405 • www.craig-chamber.com

Federal Communications Commission
Tom Wheeler, Chairman
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554
Ref: Charter/Time Warner/BHN merger—Proceeding 15-149

August 25, 2015

Dear FCC Chairman Wheeler and Commissioners:

As the premier economic development and business advocacy agency for Craig, Colorado, and Moffat County, the Craig Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the planned merger of Charter Communications with Time Warner Cable and Bright House Network.

We believe that the merger will create a strong digital communications company that can better meet the needs of the business community in western Colorado, provide increased competition, and create jobs.

Most importantly, for western Colorado, are New Charter's legally enforceable commitments to expand broadband service to underserved, rural parts of the country.

Access to broadband high speed internet service, or more precisely lack thereof, has, as you know, been a burning issue in many communities on Colorado's mostly rural West Slope. We are confident and optimistic that this merger will provide the impetus and opportunity to build out sufficient line extensions to be able to bring more of these communities into the modern world of high speed internet communications.

It can be argued that rural residents are in even greater need of reliable internet in order to stay connected with the rest of the world than are urban dwellers. It is encouraging to see that the new company that will be born of this merger has made legal commitments to conduct just such build outs, and to invest more into underserved regions.

While this expansion of high speed internet service to rural communities is our primary cause for supporting the merger, there are other aspects of the transaction which are appealing as well.

New Charter's repatriation of their call centers will bring thousands of jobs back home, and their various investments in line extensions and broadband will create many more. This includes the promised \$2.5 billion investment to build out networks into commercial areas within New Charter's area of operations, which will also serve to increase completion in the commercial sector.

This merger offers many benefits to the communities where the new company operates. We urge the FCC to support this merger as we do, and to do everything in your authority to facilitate it.

Feel free to contact us with any questions. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to participating in this process.

Respectfully,



Christina Oxley,
Executive director

